

A
 REVIEW
 OF THE
 STATE
 OF THE
 BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, July 26. 1709.

I Propos'd in my last to state the Case of War and Peace, as it now seems to stand between the *French* and Us— And I shall do it several Ways, as it respects the several Branches, whose Interest clash either with *France*, or one with another.

As to *France* and the Confederacy in general; if the Confederacy can hold together, there is no Question, *France* will be oblig'd to comply with their Demands, and therefore no Body can blame the King of *France* for bidding so high to divide them— And could he but once divide them, he would as easily impose his own Terms upon them— Could the King of *France* bring off but the Duke of *Savoy*, or the King of

Portugal from the Confederacy, we should soon find, the *French* would laugh at our Attempts upon *Spain*: It is evident, the Possession of *Spain* is so full, and the Circumstances of our attacking it so difficult, that even as it is, I may say, you will never carry *Spain* by your War there— The Climate, the Difficulty of Supplies, the Expence of carrying Recruits and Stores— The Treachery of the Natives, Cowardise and beggarly Conduct of Confederates, with some *Et Cetera's*, I care not to name, give me great Reason to say so.

I might make a great many Uses of this Suggestion; but the Chief which I shall mention are these.

1. That

1. That from hence it is reasonable, the Confederates should make use of their other Advantages, to compel *France* to surrender *Spain*— It is not enough to say, they will abandon it— They snatch'd it from, and they must surrender it to us ; and if the Usurper will not do it, as indeed we cannot blame him for refusing, it lies upon *France*, not upon the Confederates to do it— He is able to do it, and we are not in so good a Posture to do it as he is— Of both which I shall speak presently.
2. From hence it is clear, that the best Way to reduce *Spain*, is to reduce *France* ; *Spain* must fall, if you bring the King of *France* to a Necessity of bringing home *Philip V.* and surrendering it— Let him do it by Force, or which way he will ; bring him but to the Necessity of dethroning his Grandson, or dethroning himself, you need not care one Farthing, which he chooses.

As to the Interest of *France* with any particular Branch of the Confederacy, it is not so much our present Subject— But give me leave to say something to the Interest of the respective Confederates, as they seem to regard one another in the great Affair of surrendering *Spain*, for that is the Thing now before us, and, I think, really has not yet been spoken to by any Body that has treated of this Matter.

Speaking of this View, I take upon me to say,

Britain is the Power of all the Confederates most concern'd, in having *Spain* surrender'd by *France* ; and that for two Reasons.

1. Because her Interest in the Trade of *Spain* is greatest, and most essential to her self.
2. Because the greatest Weight of reducing *Spain* would lie upon her, if the Peace should be made without it.

I need say little to the first ; it is evident, 1. That all the rest of *Europe* put together, does not carry on half the Trade with *Spain*, that this Island does in Times of Peace— 2. That Trade they do carry on,

is not half so essential to the Prosperity of those Countries, as the Trade of these Islands with *Spain*, is to us. And these I take to be good Reasons, why the rest of the Confederates will not think themselves equally concern'd to reduce *Spain* after a Peace, as we shall be ; and so, if you make a Peace without *Spain*, the whole Weight of reducing it will lie upon us— I am not making Reflections upon the Emperor or the *Dutch* ;— But the first, not the clearest in seeing his own Interest, or not the warmest in pursuing it ; and the last, so clearly seeing, and so closely pursuing their own Interest, abstractly consider'd— That we have too much Reason to believe, the Burthen of such a War would lie wholly upon us.

Britain is therefore the most concern'd of all the Powers of *Europe*, to have the Kingdom of *Spain* restor'd, before any Peace is made with the *French* ; for if that Article be left precarious, or the Forces of *Philip* to be driven out by Force, I cannot but apprehend, we shall have that Work wholly to do by our selves— Immediate Satisfaction is to be made to all the rest of the Confederates ; Towns, Provinces, and whole Kingdoms given up to them, their Barriers settled, their Frontiers secur'd, the Fortifications that are formidable to them diminish'd, the Obstructions of their Commerce remov'd, and this even before the Treaty, in the Preliminaries, they will be all easie and content ; and how far they will look farther, I won't pretend to say— But this is remarkable, *Spain* is the only Thing we fight for, and to promise, that the Confederates, after every ones Demands are fully satisfy'd, shall concern themselves for us in finishing that War, is what I do not see, who will be Guarantee for— It must suppose them all to have a great Deal of Honour, and more Regard to the *British* Interest, than we ought to depend upon.

It is therefore our Business, and certainly much more our Interest, to carry on the War till this be done, than to trust to the Generosity of our Confederates to help us to do it afterwards, when at best we shall be Principals in the War, and all our Confederates but as Auxiliaries— Whereas it seems more rational to say, the Recovery of *Spain* is the Em-

Emperor's Quarrel, and ought to be done by him—And our Part is only to be auxiliary—Whether it would be Prudence in us to leave it to the Emperor, and trust that deposing Philip V. to the Imperial Arms, I leave to any Body to determine.

It remains to examine, as the Issue of all this, what ought to be expected of the King

of France, supposing he should now, or at the End of the Campaign—when the Time of the two Months Truce is run out—offer to sign the Preliminaries—For there is more depends upon that Time of the Truce, than every Body may apprehend. Of which in my next.

MISCELLANEA.

I Am now launch'd into the great Ocean of National Improvement in *Scotland*, I have laid it down as a Maxim, That the Foundation of all Encrease in *Scotland* is in the Improvement of their Lands—And I am entering upon the Enquiry into the Improvement. The first Branch of this Enquiry is to find out the present Deficiency.

The general Head of the Deficiency lies in this, That the Lands in *Scotland* are not made to produce what they might be made to produce, nor brought up to the Value to which they might be brought—

The Particulars, which explain this General, are two.

1. *The Want of Enclosures*, in order to laying the Lands *several*, that every Husbandman may dung and manure each Piece of Ground, in Proportion to what it will bear, and keep Stocks of Cattle upon their own Land—Whereas now he that has 100 Cows is oblig'd to let them run at large, and his Neighbours Land reaps the Benefit of his Stock—And that Benefit is it self less by nine Parts in ten than it would be, if the same Number of Cattle are fodder'd and fed upon Enclosures of his own, at the proper Seasons, and in the Manner that the Rules of Husbandry direct.

2. *Want of Winter Provisions for Cattle*—Without which the Farmer cannot breed large Cattle, or keep a large Number of them; and for Want of which, those they have are stinted in their Growth, and starv'd by the Severities of Winter.

I have often heard the People in *Scotland* and in the North of *England* complain, that the Severity of their Winters starves and

kills their Cattle, Cows, as well as Sheep—But when I came to examine the Thing, having stay'd in *Scotland* one whole Winter, and Part of two more; and when I saw the Methods in the Southern Parts of *Britain*, where the Cold is as severe sometimes as in *Scotland*, I saw the manifest Difference—And cannot but hint it to you.

The Case is plain, the Cattle are starv'd, not with Cold, but with Hunger—Nature has furnish'd the Sheep with very warm Clothes, fitted for the coldest Seasons of the coldest Climates—The Noul or black Cattle have the same in Proportion, tho' of different Kind; and of both may be said, that if you keep their Insides warm, they never or very rarely die of Cold—

From hence it is remarkable, That in *England* our Cattle lie abroad, Night and Day, in the coldest Weather, and shall thrive and be fat; whereas in *Scotland* and the North, their Cattle are almost starv'd in the warm Byer, or Cow-house—The poor black Cattle, that do lie abroad, stand pinched and perishing in the Fields, and spoil both their Growth and their Flesh; while in the South they lie down in the very Snow, and yet are warm and thriving; the Difference is manifest—These are fed well, have good Meat in their Bellies, and are kept in Heart; the other are empty and starv'd, and have no Strength left to support the Extremities of the Weather, because no Food to supply their Strength.

Again, it is the same Thing with the Sheep—The Lambs fall in the Depth of Winter-Weather, when the Cold is severe, the